GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2560
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2003
BLENDING OF ETHANOL IN PETROL
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR;VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has put a 5 percent cap on ethanol content for blended petrol as against 20 percent prevalent in US and Brazil;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the sugar mills in the Southern States had urged the Government to increase the percentage of the blending of ethanol with petrol to tide over the over production crisis in the sugar milling industry; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SMT SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a)&(b) The Government of India, in the first phase of implementation of the programme of sale of 5% ethanol blended petrol, ordered blending of 5% ethanol in 9 sugar producing States and 4 contiguous Union Territories. In the second phase of implementation, the Government desires to cover the rest of the States and Union Territories. In the third phase of implementation, the percentage of ethanol blending is to be increased to 10%, subject to technical feasibility.

(c) Representations have been received from the sugar industry to increase the percentage of blended ethanol in petrol.

(d) Same as (a)&(b)above.